

SECTION 24

TOPSOILING

24-01 SCOPE: The work covered by this section of the specifications consists in furnishing all plant, labor, equipment and materials, not furnished by the Government, and in performing all operations in connection with topsoiling, complete, in strict accordance with this section of the specifications and the applicable drawings, and subject to the terms and conditions of the contract.

24-02 MATERIAL: The topsoil that will be made available on the site will be designated on the plans in stockpiles or in areas from which it is to be stripped. All other topsoil necessary to complete the work shall be furnished by the Contractor from approved sources off the site. Topsoil to be provided by the Contractor shall be natural, friable clay loam soil possessing the characteristics of representative soils in the vicinity which produce heavy growths of crops, grass, or other vegetation and shall be obtained from naturally well-drained areas. The topsoil shall be reasonably free from subsoil, brush, objectionable weeds, or other litter, and shall be free from clay lumps, stones, stump roots or other objects larger than 2 inches in diameter, toxic substance, and any other material or substance which may be harmful to plant growth or be a hindrance to grading, planting, and maintenance operations.

24-03 INSPECTION AND TESTS: The Contractor shall notify the Contracting Officer of the sources from which topsoil is to be furnished. The topsoil proposed for use will be inspected by the Contracting Officer to determine if the selected soil or soils meet the requirements. At the time of inspection, the Contracting Officer may require representative soil samples to be taken from several locations on the areas under consideration, to be tested for physical properties and pH (or lime requirement), for organic matter, and for available phosphoric acid and potash. Sampling and testing will be in accordance with standard practices of soil testing. The depth to which the topsoil is to be stripped shall be as approved by the Contracting Officer, and all samples drawn from the area shall be taken to the full stripping depth approved.

24-04 PREPARATION OF SUBGRADE:

a. General: The areas to be topsoiled and areas requiring any special treatments shall be as shown on the plans or as directed by the Contracting Officer. Equipment necessary for the proper preparation of the ground surface and for handling and placing all materials required shall be on hand, in good condition, and shall be approved by the Contracting Officer before the work is started.

b. Clearing: Prior to grading and tillage operations, all heavy growth of vegetation on the site sufficient to interfere seriously with grading or tilling operations shall be moved, raked, and burned or hauled off the site, or used for mulch if necessary and suitable, as directed by the Contracting Officer. Prior to or during grading and tillage operations, the ground surface shall be cleared of all stumps, stones larger than two

inches in diameter, cable, wire, grade stakes, or any other materials which might hinder proper grading, tilling, and subsequent maintenance operations.

c. Grading: Grades on the areas to be topsoiled which have been established as shown on the plans, shall be maintained in true and even condition. Where the grades have not been established, the areas shall be graded as shown on the plans and all surfaces shall be left at the prescribed grades in an even and properly compacted condition which will prevent the formation of low places and pockets where water will stand.

24-05 OBTAINING TOPSOIL: After inspection and approval of the sources of topsoil by the Contracting Officer, and prior to stripping to the approved depth, the Contractor shall remove any rank growth of vegetation, stones larger than 2 inches in diameter, or debris on the surfaces which may interfere seriously with grading or later tillage operations. Any sod or other cover which cannot be disked or otherwise incorporated into the topsoil before or after delivery, in such a manner that it can be spread properly, shall be removed. Where topsoil is to be made available on areas to be graded, the topsoil shall be removed to the required depth from any designated areas prior to the beginning of grading operations. The topsoil removed from stock piles, areas to be stripped, or areas to be graded shall be kept separate from other excavated material.

24-06 PLACING TOPSOIL: Immediately prior to placing topsoil the subgrade, wherever excessively compacted by traffic or other uses, shall be loosened by disking or scarifying to a depth of at least 2 inches to permit bonding of the topsoil to the subgrade. The topsoil shall be dumped in piles uniformly spaced or otherwise distributed by approved equipment in sufficient quantity to provide a three-inch layer over the designated areas and then evenly spread over the surface by blade graders or other approved methods. The spreading shall be carried on in such a manner that planting can proceed with little additional soil preparation or tillage. Topsoil shall not be placed when the subgrade is excessively wet, extremely dry, or in a condition otherwise detrimental to the proposed plantings or to proper grading. Topsoil shall be graded to the lines indicated on the drawings and any irregularities in the surface resulting from topsoiling or other operations shall be corrected to prevent formation of depressions where water will stand.

24-07 CLEAN-UP: After the topsoil has been spread and graded as required, the surface shall be cleared of all stones, stumps, or other objects larger than two inches in diameter and of all roots, wire, brush, grade stakes, or other matter that may be a hindrance to planting or maintenance operations. Any paved areas over which hauling operations are conducted shall be kept clean, and any topsoil or other dirt which may be brought upon the surfacing shall be removed promptly. If necessary, the wheels of all vehicles shall be kept clean to avoid bringing dirt upon the surfacing of roads, walks and paved areas.